Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 JUSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8251

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 1364

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIS, RO

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF TRAWLER INAU

REF: STATE 068518

- 1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PACOSTE IN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY PERTINENT FACTORS ON BASIS OF REFTEL. PACOSTE AGREED THAT US APPROACH WAS LOGICAL ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT US LAW HAD BEEN VIOLATED BUT THAT ROMANIANS HAVING DIFFERENT INFORMATION HAD MADE INITIAL DEMARCHE TO EMBASSY BUCHAREST. HE STRESSED THAT GOR WAS IN NO WAY SUGGESTING DEPARTMENT INTERVENE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD GIVE ROMANIAN VESSEL SPECIAL TREATMENT IF INDEED US LAW HAD BEEN VIOLATED.
- 2. PACOSTE STATED THAT NAVROM (ROMANIAN MERCHANT MARINE ENTITY) HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE COUNSEL AND THAT COUNSEL HAD BEEN ADVISED BY US ATTORNEY THAT PAYMENT OF \$150,000 FINE WOULD SETTLE MATTER. ROMANIAN EMBASSY HOWEVER REPORTED THAT US ATTORNEY HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ANY ARGUMENTS FROM ROMANIAN SIDE SUPPORTING THEIR CLAIM THAT SHIP WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN DISTRESS. AMBASSADOR, ON BASIS OF PARA 4 REFTEL,

PROPOSED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY SEND NEW TELEGRAM TO WASHINGTON TO MAKE SURE THAT ATTEMPT WAS REALLY MADE TO CONVEY ANY ARGUMENTS ROMANIAN SIDE WOULD HAVE PACOSTE AGREED. IN GENERAL, PACOSTE'S TONE WAS MUCH MORE RESTRAINED THAN YESTERDAY ALTHOUGH HE REITERATED ARGUMENTS WHICH HE ADMITTED WERE LOGICAL ONLY IF ROMANIAN BASIC PREMISE ABOUT SHIP BEING IN DISTRESS HELD WATER.

- 3. IT WAS AGREED EMBASSY WOULD STAY IN CONTACT WITH MFA. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON RESULTS OF APRIL 5 ARRAIGNMENT AS WELL AS ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH BOGDAN. WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER THERE IS ANY LEGAL BAR TO ROMANIAN CONSUL WHO IS PRESENTLY IN BALTIMORE PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US ATTORNEY AND COUNSEL RETAINED BY ROMANIAN EMBASSY (DIRECTOR BADESCU WHO WAS PRESENT CITED RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONSUL UNDER CONSULAR CONVENTION WHEN SHIPS ARE IN DISTRESS.)
- 4. BADESCU ALSO RAISED AGAIN QUESTION OF TREATMENT OF ROMANIAN CAPTAIN AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR CAPTAIN TO BE TREATED OTHER THAN AS A CRIMINAL ABOUT TO ESCAPE. (REF WAS TO NECESSITY FOR ARMED GUARDS.)
 BARNES

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Message Attributes

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